

The Gateway

Undergraduate Newspaper published weekly by the Students' Union of the University of Alberta.

Sports Editor, Don MacKenzie

RUGBY EXTRA!

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1926

FOUR PAGES

Western Canada Rugby Final

HOWIE MILNE



Captain of the Regina Rough Riders. Milne plays flying wing, and there is probably none better in Canada.

A Rugby Retrospect

By E. A. HOWES

It cannot be denied that it was in the most polite terms that Wes. Oke and Don MacKenzie requested the assembling of the following summary, but looks mean more than words—they looked as if pronouncing sentence upon one who, in a previous article, had the temerity to write of the glories of athletics of a previous decade. The freedom from danger of successful contradiction, which manifestly characterized a story of times more remote, would be lacking within the scope of the present article, and well they knew it—they left with the air of receiving the Roman gladiatorial salute. They wanted the story of the development, that has led to our present fine rugby team; they wanted it in a hurry for a Gateway special, and "who could do this better than the President of the Alberta Rugby Union." May the penalty for all ensuing discrepancies, inaccuracies and sins of omission fall upon the heads of those who first conceived the idea.

The University of Alberta was famous before the war for the fine group of athletes, drawn from its then comparatively small enrolment. Elsewhere we have spoken of them, and of the part they played when the great call came. Following Armistice was the inevitable period of reclamation when, as Dr. Tory said in the opening issue of The

(Continued from page two)

University Gets its First Crack at Western Canada Rugby Championship Title

Regina Rough Riders, Famous Rugby Aggregation, Will Form Opposition—This Afternoon at 2:15 Teams Take the Field at Varsity Grid

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA RUGBY MAD

And Who Can Blame Them?—Supreme Confidence in the Squad Marks Every Mother's Son in the Environs

The grimmest and hardest fought battle in the annals of western rugby is expected at the Varsity Grid this afternoon when the slashing Regina Rough Riders meet the finest team the University of Alberta has ever produced, in the final game for the Western Canada Rugby Championship. The visitors arrived in the city this morning with the scalps of the great St. John's College grid-men still swinging from their belts, and at once began to cast gleefully expectant eyes on the black, blond, and sandy head-heather of the local huskies. The latter, however, merely tossed back their real or artificial curls with very evident confidence in their ability to look after themselves.

Opposition to Respect

Varsity's games to date have been against relatively weak teams, so that the encyclopedists have not yet been extended to the full limit of their undoubted strength. The Regina team is admitted by the local moguls to be in an entirely different class. Led by that sensational tackler and broken field runner, Howie Milne, one of the two western players ever to be chosen on an All-Canada team, the grid soldiers of the Queen city have shown form in their engagements to date which unmistakably brands them as one of the finest teams that ever dug their cleats into a western rugby field. Coached by the redoubtable Ritchie-Rogers combination in the newest offensive and defensive formations, and boasting a magnificent interference system, the gentle equestrians are called to break through the strong Varsity defense several times before this evening, and to frustrate some of the tricky plays with which Varsity so far has carried everything before them.

The remarkable finishing powers of the visitors was proven at Regina a week ago, and the battle will go



THE PROBABLE LINEUP

ALBERTA.	SASKATCHEWAN
O'Brien.....	CentreErskine
Hill.....	RightMiddleton
Hess.....	LeftWilson
Pullishy.....	WingMilne
Cowda.....	QuarterSandstrom
Galbraith.....	SnapGilhooly
Gourlay.....	InsideRennebohn
Laverty.....	Bates
Selnes (Capt.)	MiddleYorke
Agnew.....	Thompson
Walker.....	EndWarner
McDonald.....	Busch
Powers.....	SubWood
Lewis.....	Foster
Mitchell.....	Arnot
K. MacKenzie.....	Creighton
Begg.....	Urness
Williams.....	Clarke
D. MacKenzie.....	
Siebert.....	
Prittie.....	

forty yards for the Green and Gold.

The Alberta defense can hardly hope to keep unblemished its remarkable record of stopping every attack before it passes the secondary line. Should it succeed in performing this feat, Regina cannot win, for the Varsity scoring machine can be counted on for 10 or 15 points during the game.

The locals have had an edge on condition in all of their matches to date, and are now in finer shape than ever before. Not a single member of the squad is on the injured list, and every man knows every play like second nature. If "a team is as strong as its substitutes," as is often quoted, Alberta is remarkably strong. For positions behind the line, on the ends, and along the wing line, there



are men sitting on the Varsity sub-bench who could make good with practically any team in the west, and it is only the presence of an unprecedented galaxy of stars on the squad that keeps them sitting restlessly on the side-lines.

Jimmy Directs

Jimmy Bill, rugby mentor since that day he broke his shoulder playing for the Edmonton Eskimos against the Hamilton Tigers five years ago, has given the boys under his care much of the science and dash which marked his sensational running and plunging in days gone by. Jimmy has schooled his team in the newest of proven rugby tactics, and, with the great test in the immediate future, Jimmy is sure they can win if they play as they have shown him they can.

the full 60 minutes before a decision will be possible.

They're G-O-O-D

The Green and Gold team has played fine rugby in the past two engagements, and it is the possibilities of a really great showing against worthy foemen, rather than the one-sided scores, which has inspired the supporters of the mighty Bill-boys. "The line makes the yards; the backfield carries the ball," goes the old saying, and it is the line play of the locals which won for them the semifinal match last Saturday. Behind the backs of these Herculean gladiators operates a rearguard the equal of which for consistent brilliance, Edmonton and Alberta generally has seldom seen. The speed of the O'Brien-Hess-Hill combination is dazzling whether it is on a good or a bad field, and it will be a magnificent defense that stops their sensational attempts. Captain Selnes, "Terrible Terry" Agnew, and Bill Pullishy will lead the Alberta attack through the line, and firm indeed will be the human wall which even hopes to consistently stop them in their crashing rushes.

In addition to these two modes of attack, the Green and Gold hold a third threat, as dangerous to Regina as either of the other two. With "Malingear" Hess, of the heroic foot, and Obee O'Brien, two of the finest punters and drop kickers in the west, or his roster, Coach Bill can call at any time for a relentless aerial offensive under which anything but a superhuman backfield is certain to finally crack. One mis-cue behind the Rough Rider line, and the McDonald-Walker flying-hoofed combination has secured at least

GRID GAME WINS IN THE UNIVERSITIES

University rugby is coming into its own in the Dominion of Canada, as reports from every part of the country clearly show. In the eastern intercollegiate league, the three teams, Queen's, Toronto and McGill, are tied for the championship, with the entire schedule run off. The games have been attended by the closest thing yet to the howling mobs which feature rugby matches on the other side of the line, and everything points to the most exciting climax in history when the outcome is finally decided.

In the west, two of the four provincial championships were won by college teams, St. John's College of Winnipeg and the University of Alberta. One of these teams has reached the western finals, while the other was beaten by a final rally of the great Rough Riders. Should the western title be won by the university team playing on Saturday, the triumph of college rugby in the west will be complete.

If Alberta wins and is able to go east for Dominion honors, it will undoubtedly get a tremendous reception there, where the first university team from the west has been looked to for the past two years to give the eastern finalists the first real struggle for the Canadian title.

First Western Canada Champs



Old Edmonton rugby team of 1893, champions of that year. On page four you will find a cut of the champions of 1926—perhaps.

Regina Rough Riders Are Heavy, Fast and Experienced

The fans may as well resign themselves to a heart-breaking struggle when the Rough Riders take the field against our champions. For be it known far and wide the Rough Riders are no set-up.

Below we print short sketches of the players, gleaned largely from the columns of the Regina Leader. Give the Leader sports writer all the credit for these effusions—we must be truthful.

They follow:

Howie Milne, flying wing. He is almost in a class by himself as a tackler and broken field runner.

Jerry Erskine, centre half. A sure pair of hands and a splendid broken field runner gets Jerry on the job. He's a pippin, and that's not applesauce.

Rufie Middleton, right half. Captain of the Pats last year, and a real asset to the senior team. A splendid half-back.

Freddie Wilson, left half. When it comes to talking feet in football Freddie Wilson has both of them, and more than that, he knows how to use them to best advantage. Fred has held down his job for a long time and is likely to figure in many more kicking struggles before he burns the old uniform.

Fritz Sandstrom, quarter. Very efficient at handling his signals and right on the job all the time. His rival Foster also is capable of handling the job to perfection.

Jack Gilhooley, snapback. A very useful man at his position; in fact, he is O.K. at any position.

Tare Rennebohn, left inside. The very word "Tare" describes this athlete perfectly. He is one of the tearingest men on the team. A former captain and one of the old-timers.

Curtis Bates, right inside. A wheat rancher from Grand Coulee. If he ever wore his faded golf cap any other way than backwards, such an incident has not been recorded in local sport annals.

"Hoot" Yorke, left middle wing. A graduate from the junior Pats, and players do not graduate without sufficient cause. "Hoot" just booted himself into the senior ranks by dogged determination and some excellent line plunging.

Bob Thompson, right middle wing. Bob can be relied upon to do full justice to his position. He is a splendid line plunger. Gains are his chief assets.

Clare Warner, left end. Clare is not only fast getting away, but he is regarded as one of the most deadly

tacklers on the team.

N. Busch, right end. Another graduate from the Pats. A regular star at his position. Fast on his feet and sure with his hands.

A RUGBY RETROSPECT

(Continued from page one)

Gateway of '19, we faced "the beginning of a new era in the University"—as applicable to athletics in general and to rugby in particular as to all other institutional activities. The same Gateway said of rugby—"Rugby has come back with peace. This is the first year we have had since 1915." Following is a summary hastily thrown together—a story of Varsity rugby down to the day when a Varsity team faces its first game for a Western Canada championship—may success attend its enterprise.

1919

The Alberta Rugby Union consisted of four teams—two from Calgary (Tigers and Canucks), the Edmonton Canucks, and Varsity. On Thanksgiving Day Varsity defeated the Edmonton team 9-2. It was a

rough game—Jimmie Bill played with Edmonton. They next played Calgary Canucks and lost 16-1. The early winter interfered with the schedule, and it was finally decided that Varsity and Calgary should play off in Calgary for the championship. Our boys trained faithfully—the farm teams had scraped the snow into huge banks—it was a sight to see the boys as they tramped in after practice. Our team lost the final game 19-16. It is safe betting that every man on the Varsity team for that game still maintains that they had the better team. Others will agree with them. Special glory was given to Ab. Taylor, Bill Baker and "Big Six" Langford. The latter was always nearly losing his uniform—he never did, but he caused us much anxiety at times. Roy Stephens was coach.

1920

MacDawson, of Toronto Varsity fame, coached early in the season. This year marked the adoption of the snap-back system. It also marked the advent of that wonderful team built up by Deacon White for Edmonton, with such players as Burnett, Blades, Yancey, Miles Palmer, Moe Lieberman, and Jimmy Enright, the finest ground gainer the writer has seen in many years. Our Jimmie Bill was captain of this team; he does not know dare to boast of what his team did to Varsity—we lost 35-4 and 19-1, but we lost to men who afterwards played in two Dominion finals. One notes among others on Varsity line-up that year Rex Simmons, Max Palmer, Dunc McNeil, Sonnie Dier and two end-

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Photos

men, Jack Fife and George Clark, who performed some of the deadliest tackling in Varsity's record. It is recorded that Jack McAllister played "substitute." Can you imagine it? So much for the Senior Varsity team. The story of Varsity Seconds is something else yet again. In the play-off for the provincial intermediate championship they defeated Calgary in a home and home series by scores of 16-2 and 3-0. We had a splendid second team that year. In the picture that adorns the walls of the dining room, the players are grouped about Jack Buchanan and the writer, but most of the credit should go to Dr. McGibbon and his assistant Max Fife, who laboured hard in the development of the intermediate champions.

1921

This year Jimmy Bill began his work of handling Varsity rugby. He had a real task ahead of him. Those pesky Eskimos that year showed that there was no hard feeling toward their old captain by downing Varsity to the tune of 25-3 and 41-0. They had added Shieman, Jack Fraser and Curly Dorman to their offensive, and this did not do Deacon's team any harm. Varsity had a happier time with Calgary. It is true they lost the first game, but they scored 16 points in the last quarter; and to show that they had only started, they won the return game 15-0. We noted Bob Lamb, Walter Selnes, Dick Conrod and Red McCall in senior company that year. The season ended with an exhibition game with Eskimos, to give the latter team practice for their senior finals for the Dominion event.

1922

This year Coach Bill began his scheme of building a senior team from the ground upward. There was no senior team entered in the Alberta Union. Instead there was inaugurated systematic interfaculty rugby, and this was early recognized as a splendid means of developing raw material, and if building up a sound body of rugby interest. An outstanding event of the year was the home and home contest with the University of Saskatchewan. Our team lost, 7-3, at Saskatoon, and members of the team still tell how systematically Sam Savage hit the goal posts with his famous drop kicks. However, when Curly Taylor brought his team to Edmonton, for the return match, Saskatchewan contrived to look pleasant in spite of a 28-0 defeat. This home and home series was regarded by both institutions as a very enjoyable feature in intervarsity athletics, and was the pioneer move that led to the present arrangement under the W.C.I.A.U. for the season of '27. We began that year to talk about Henderson, Leppard, Savage, Bisset, McLaren, Coupez, Wrinch and Agnew, additions to the remnant of what had once been the Varsity senior team. We cannot leave 1922 without reference to the famous exhibition game with Deacon White's Elks, Western Canada champions, with hopes of taking Queen's into camp in the Dominion final. At the

GREAT TRILLS TRAVELLING THIS WAY, BUT—



It doesn't win rugby games.

However, roughly they may ride, we rely on Coach Bill's statement to the effect that if the U. of A. giant rugby machine is at top form consistent gains will be made.

end of the first half Varsity led 9-4, the Elks attempting an open game, and feeling sorry about it. When the writer reads of some sixth sense that enables Red Grange to sift through the ranks of his opponents, he thinks of how those aspirants after Dominion honors floundered around in the snow reaching for the place Spotsy Leppard had been. Savage and McNeil seemed almost as hard to find. However in the second half the Elks resorted to their famous line-plunging game, at which they had no equal, and won by the final count of 21-9. We enjoyed that game. Oh, yes, we farmed out Jack McAllister to the Edmonton team that year.

1923

We did pretty well in this year. Varsity was matched for home and home games with Edmonton in the League schedule. With little practice they entered the first game and were defeated 43-1. In the return game they wrote another story. Eskimos were beaten 8-7 in one of the hardest games the oval has seen. This was the first defeat of the Eskimos in three years of Western Canada rugby, and they were beaten at their own game of line plunging for the first time. The victory was by too narrow a margin to influence the total of the series, and Eskimos were again champions. Someone noticed Chief Davis in that game, among the other stars. Jack McAllister rejoined the Varsity team this year.

1924

We started out with high hopes. In recognition of Varsity's unavoidably late start at the season's practice, Calgary and Edmonton played a home and home series, in which Calgary was victorious. We thought we could beat that Calgary team, and we did—but not in '24. Calgary took both games of the series by scores of 8-0 and 18-1. Calgary seemed to have the better team. This year we remarked the presence of Backman and Thompson, of English rugby fame, and of two promising Calgary

specimens in Potter and Piper. We had with us also a couple of the Irish O'Briens.

1925

This was a record year. Edmonton did not enter a senior team, and the schedule was arranged to include four games with Calgary. The first couple of home and home games were to be ranked as exhibition games, and the second series was to count for the provincial championship. Calgary won the first exhibition game by a score of 34-5, and some of us remarked the probability of a somewhat historical resemblance between '24 and '25. Calgary won the second exhibition game 5-2, and we quitted, for a time at least, the ranks of the prophets. Then Jimmy Bill introduced the huddle system, and some more new tricks, and telephoned us from Calgary at the close of the first championship game that the score was Calgary 11, Varsity 19. We have no difficulty in remembering the final game when Varsity ran up another 19 points and allowed Calgary a score of 4. Provincial champions at last! We should have entered the Western Canada finals, but the weather gave us a financial scare, and the uniforms were packed up for the year. Special mention might be made this year of Hill, Campbell, Young, Laurie, Laverty and Eby, and we must not forget how Johnny Woods made himself famous at quarter, until injuries retired him from the final game. This was the year

that Herb O'Brien made his big mark at half.

1926

The year '25 felt too close for history, and '26 is out of the question, for more than a check: Champions of the province by virtue of entire lack of opposition; winners over University of Saskatchewan in a return game series; winners over B.C. champions in the semi-finals for the Western Canada championship; today, contestants with the experienced Regina team for the western crown. We will finish the story later—perhaps.

DOING HIS STUFF TODAY



OLD SOL

The modest gentleman pictured above has been most retiring of late.

Our rugby men have prayed unceasingly for fine weather and sunshine, same to be served up today. Prospects looked better Friday morning, but the matter wasn't clinched finally until Dean Howes added the weight of his supplication.

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Western Canada Rugby Championship Final

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From left to right—Williams, Siebert, Begg, Galbraith, K. MacKenzie, Agnew, Lewis, Coach Bill Selnes (Captain), MacDonald, Laverty, Gowda, Gibson (President), O'Brien, Hill, Hess, D. MacKenzie, Gourlay, Pullishy, Walker.

Regina Rough Riders vs. U. of A. This Afternoon 2:15, Varsity Grid

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